AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the claims

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method of treating systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) in an individual, comprising administering to the individual a conjugate comprising (a) a non-immunogenic valency platform molecule and (b) two or more molecules comprising double stranded DNA (dsDNA) epitopes, wherein the dsDNA epitopes are polynucleotides which specifically bind to an antibody from the individual which specifically binds to double stranded DNA, wherein the polynucleotides comprise single stranded or double stranded sequences, and wherein affinity of the polynucleotides for the antibody from the individual is used as a basis for selecting the individual to receive or continue to receive the treatment, and wherein said treatment comprises administering an effective amount of said conjugate to the individual.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotides are double stranded DNA.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A method of treating SLE in an individual, comprising administering to the individual a conjugate comprising (a) a non-immunogenic valency platform molecule and (b) two or more polynucleotides which specifically bind to an antibody from the individual which specifically binds to double stranded DNA, said polynucleotides consisting essentially of the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1), wherein the apparent equilibrium dissociation constant (K_D') for the polynucleotides with respect to the antibody from the individual before or upon initiation of treatment is less than about 0.8 mg IgG per ml, wherein said K_D' value or a functional equivalent thereof is used as a basis for selecting the

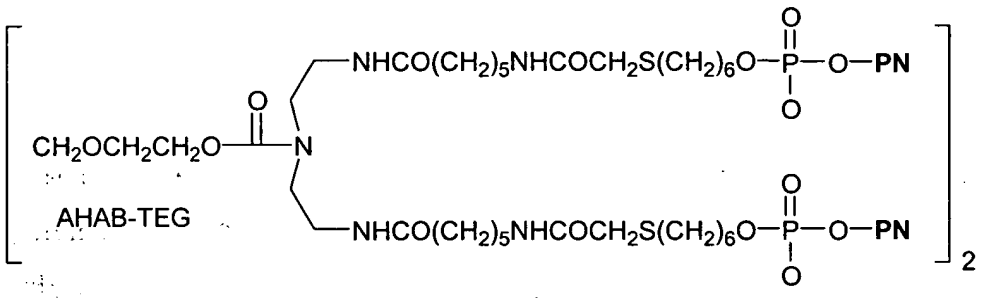
individual to receive the treatment, and wherein said treatment comprises administering an effective amount of said conjugate to the individual.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein the K_D' is less than about 0.5.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein the K_D' is less than about 0.2.

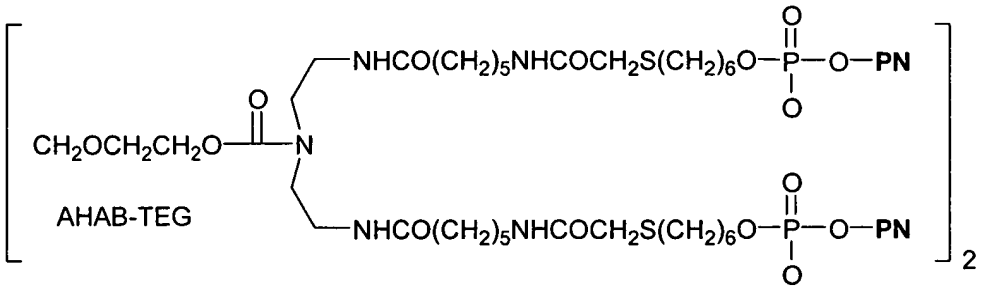
Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein the platform molecule is



wherein PN is the polynucleotide.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 8, wherein the polynucleotides consist of the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of claim 12, wherein the platform molecule is



wherein PN is the polynucleotide.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (previously presented): A method of treating SLE in an individual comprising:

(a) assessing affinity of an anti-double stranded DNA antibody from the individual with respect to a dsDNA epitope which is to be used in treatment, wherein the individual is selected for treatment based on said antibody affinity; and

(b) treating said selected individual by administering to said selected individual an effective amount of a conjugate comprising (i) a non-immunogenic valency platform molecule and (ii) two or more of the dsDNA epitopes, wherein the dsDNA epitopes are polynucleotides which specifically bind to an antibody from the individual which specifically binds to double stranded DNA, wherein the polynucleotides comprise single stranded or double stranded sequences.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method of claim 12, wherein the polynucleotides are double stranded DNA.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A method of treating SLE in an individual, comprising

(a) assessing before initiation of treatment an apparent equilibrium dissociation constant (K_D') or a functional equivalent thereof for a polynucleotide in a conjugate and an antibody from the individual which specifically binds to double stranded DNA, said conjugate comprising (i) a non-immunogenic valency platform molecule and (ii) two or more polynucleotides which specifically bind to an antibody from the individual which specifically binds to double stranded DNA, said polynucleotides consisting essentially of the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1), wherein the individual is selected to receive the treatment if the K_D' is less than about 0.8 mg IgG per ml; and

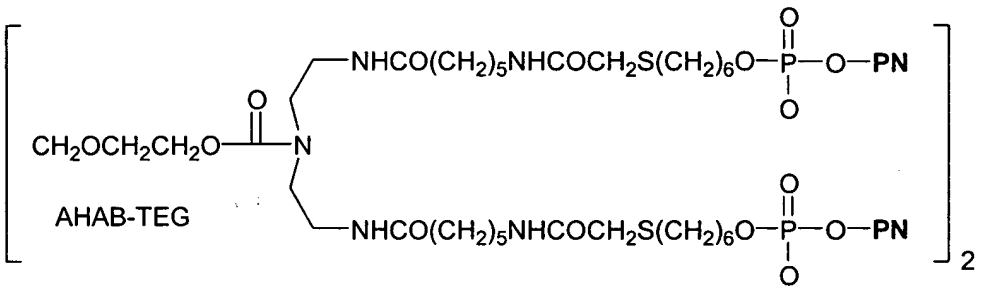
(b) administering an effective amount of the conjugate to the individual in an amount sufficient to increase the K_D'.

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 15, wherein the K_D' is less than about 0.5.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 15, wherein the K_D' is less than about 0.2.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 15, wherein the platform molecule is



wherein PN is the polynucleotide.

Claims 20-32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (previously presented): A method of treating SLE in an individual, comprising:

(a) assessing before or upon initiation of treatment an apparent equilibrium dissociation constant (K_D') for a dsDNA epitope in a conjugate and an antibody from the individual which specifically binds to double stranded DNA, said conjugate comprising (i) a non-immunogenic valency platform molecule and (ii) two or more molecules comprising said epitopes, wherein the said epitopes are polynucleotides which specifically bind to an antibody from the individual which specifically binds to double stranded DNA, wherein the polynucleotides comprise single stranded or double stranded sequences, and

(b) administering to the individual the conjugate in an amount sufficient to increase the K_D', wherein treatment is continued if K_D' is increased at least about 20% compared to K_D' before or upon initiation of treatment, and wherein said treatment comprises administration of an effective amount of said conjugate to the individual.

Claim 34 (canceled)

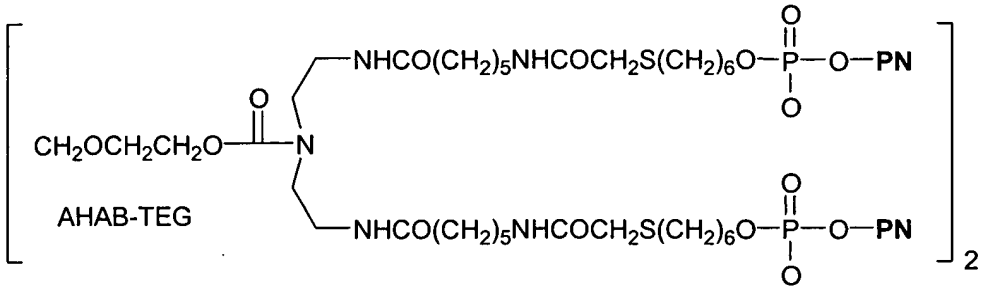
Claim 35 (currently amended): The method of claim 33, wherein the polynucleotides consist essentially of the double stranded sequence 5'- GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 36 (currently amended): The method of claim 33, wherein the polynucleotides consist of the double stranded sequence 5'- GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 37 (previously presented): The method of claims 33, 35 or 36 wherein the treatment is continued if K_D' is increased at least about 50% compared to K_D' before or upon initiation of treatment.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The method of claims 33, 35 or 36 wherein the treatment is continued if K_D' is increased at least about 100% compared to K_D' before or upon initiation of treatment.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The method of claim 35 wherein the platform molecule is



wherein PN is the polynucleotide.

Claims 40-64 (canceled)

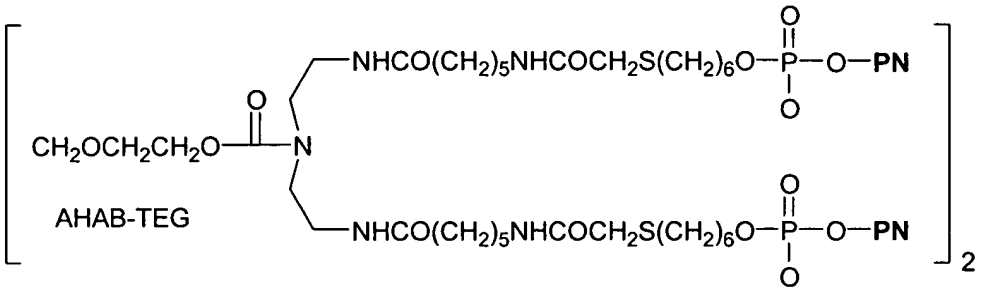
Claim 65 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein said affinity is measured by surface plasmon resonance assay.

Claim 66 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein the polynucleotides comprise the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 67 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein the polynucleotides consist essentially of the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 68 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein the polynucleotides consist of the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 69 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the platform molecule is



wherein PN is the polynucleotide.

Claim 70 (currently amended): A method according to claim 69, wherein the polynucleotides comprise the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 71 (currently amended): A method according to claim 69, wherein the polynucleotides consist essentially of the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 72 (currently amended): A method according to claim 69, wherein the polynucleotides consist of the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 73 (previously presented): A method according to claim 4, wherein the K_D' value is measured by surface plasmon resonance assay.

Claim 74 (currently amended): A method according to claim 4, wherein the conjugate comprises four polynucleotides consisting essentially of the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 75 (currently amended): A method according to claim 4, wherein the conjugate comprises four polynucleotides consisting of the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 76 (previously presented): A method according to claim 12, wherein said antibody affinity is measured by surface plasmon resonance assay.

Claim 77 (currently amended): A method according to claim 12, wherein the polynucleotides comprise the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 78 (currently amended): A method according to claim 12, wherein the polynucleotides consist essentially of the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 79 (currently amended): A method according to claim 12, wherein the polynucleotides consist of the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 80 (currently amended): A method according to claim 10, wherein the polynucleotides comprise the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 81 (currently amended): A method according to claim 10, wherein the polynucleotides consist essentially of the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 82 (currently amended): A method according to claim 10, wherein the polynucleotides consist of the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 83 (previously presented): A method according to claim 15, wherein the K_D' value is measured by surface plasmon resonance assay.

Claim 84 (canceled)

Claim 85 (currently amended): A method according to claim 15, wherein the conjugate comprises four polynucleotides consisting essentially of the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 86 (currently amended): A method according to claim 15, wherein the conjugate comprises four polynucleotides consisting of the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 87 (canceled)

Claim 88 (currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein the polynucleotides consist essentially of the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 89 (currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein the polynucleotides consist of the double stranded sequence 5'- GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 90 (previously presented): A method according to claim 33, wherein the K_D' value is measured by surface plasmon resonance assay.

Claim 91 (currently amended): A method according to claim 33, wherein the conjugate comprises four polynucleotides comprising the double stranded sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 92 (currently amended): A method according to claim 39, wherein the polynucleotides consist of the double stranded sequence 5'- GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 93 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the individual is a human.

Claim 94 (previously presented): The method of claim 4, wherein the individual is a human.

Claim 95 (previously presented): The method of claim 12, wherein the individual is a human.

Claim 96 (previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein the individual is a human.

Claim 97 (previously presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the individual is a human.

Claim 98 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein said polynucleotides comprise single stranded sequences.

Claim 99 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein said polynucleotides comprise double stranded sequences.

Claim 100 (previously presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein said double stranded DNA comprises the sequence 5'- GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 101 (previously presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein said double stranded DNA consists essentially of the sequence 5'- GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 102 (previously presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein said double stranded DNA consists of the sequence 5'- GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 103 (previously presented): A method according to claim 12, wherein said polynucleotides comprise single stranded sequences.

Claim 104 (previously presented): A method according to claim 12, wherein said polynucleotides comprise double stranded sequences.

Claim 105 (previously presented): A method according to claim 14, wherein said double stranded DNA comprises the sequence 5'- GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 106 (previously presented): A method according to claim 14, wherein said double stranded DNA consists essentially of the sequence 5'- GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 107 (previously presented): A method according to claim 14, wherein said double stranded DNA consists of the sequence 5'- GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 108 (previously presented): A method according to claim 33, wherein said polynucleotides comprise single stranded sequences.

Claim 109 (previously presented): A method according to claim 33, wherein said polynucleotides comprise double stranded sequences.

Claim 110 (previously presented): A method according to claim 100, wherein the apparent equilibrium dissociation constant (K_D') for the double stranded DNA with respect to the antibody from the individual before or upon initiation of treatment is less than about 0.8 mg IgG per ml, wherein said K_D' value or a functional equivalent thereof is used as a basis for selecting the individual to receive the treatment.